



## 15 Years of Civic Education

“Our schools are failing at what the nation’s founders saw as education’s most basic purpose: preparing young people to be reflective citizens who would value democracy and resist the appeals of demagogues,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Colbert I. King wrote in April 2017.

*The Center for the Study of Democracy* (“Center” or “CSD”) at St Mary’s College of Maryland (“SMCM”) is dedicated to educating students and the general public about American democracy and exploring issues facing our nation. Its programs are designed to inspire students to engage in their communities and to take an active role in local, regional, national and global politics. We value our community members and invite them to join our programs.

The Center was founded in 2002 as a joint initiative of St. Mary’s College of Maryland and its partner institution, Historic St. Mary’s City (HSMC), the site of Maryland’s first capital, where history, archeology and museum studies flourish. Our partnership with HSMC helps the Center put modern-day democracy in a proper historical context.

The Center was created at the initiative of individuals of national reputation such as J. Frank Raley, Benjamin Bradlee and Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who served on the Center’s Advisory Board along with General Andrew J. Goodpaster, NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander, and Anthony Lake, former National Security Advisor to President Clinton. Our long-time current Advisors include Senator Ben Cardin and Representative Steny Hoyer.

# Knowledge - Safeguard of Democracy

The Center offers public lectures, forums and workshops and it invites scholars, government officials and lawmakers to discuss such topics as climate change, American foreign policy, fake news, the role of social media in elections, and the future of American democracy. Such events have inspired our students and community members to learn more about current issues and enhanced their desire to engage in activities designed to make a difference. With The Patuxent Partnership (TPP), we have also welcomed renowned national security and foreign policy experts to address matters of war and peace and discuss proposals for solving a myriad of conflicts around the world. TPP is a non-profit member organization that works with government, industry, and academia. It organizes events on topics that are of interest to the homeland security community.

## Benjamin Bradlee Distinguished Lecture in Journalism



**Carl Bernstein**, a famous Watergate journalist, delivered the Bradlee lecture in April 2015. Since 2004, this endowed lecture series, established by Ben Bradlee, has brought well-known media personalities to the College, including Bob Woodward, Tom Brokaw, Richard Cohen, Robin Wright, Neil Irwin, Gwen Ifill and David Ignatius.

Ben Bradlee, who served as Executive Editor of *The Washington Post* at the time of Watergate, played an important role in launching the Center. He was on its Advisory Board from the very beginning until he passed away in 2014. Bradlee also served as Trustee at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

**Cokie Roberts**, a journalist and author who is best known as a roundtable analyst for *This Week with George Stephanopoulos* and NPR's *Morning Edition*, delivered the Bradlee Lecture in March 2017. She has won three Emmys and is included in the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame. Cokie Roberts is considered by the American Women in Radio and Television to be one of the fifty greatest women in broadcasting history.

In the picture, Cokie Roberts is between SMCM students Scott Zimmerman and Miranda McLain. Miranda has served as Editor-in-Chief of *The Point News*, a campus newspaper, since September 2016. Scott has served as Managing Editor of the same paper since September 2016. In 2017, the Center awarded him the *Thomas Penfield Jackson Award for Civic Responsibility and Democratic Citizenship*.



# Civic Education - Theory and Practice



At St Mary's College, theoretical, historical, political and practical aspects of citizenship are being taught by various departments, especially at the Political Science Department and the History Department. In addition, the College has special programs that teach students to critically examine the many aspects of American democracy.

The Center's mission is to explore contemporary and historical issues associated with the ideas of democracy, liberty and justice in national and international contexts. It created the Democracy Studies Program to provide students with a deeper understanding of how democracies are established, maintained and improved. In 2016, the Center offered a free public course, *Challenges to Democracy*, which was cross-listed with the Political Science Department and Democracy Studies Program. One of the students who actively participated in the Center's many programs received a Fulbright scholarship and is now enrolled in the Master of Science Program in Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

## Student Ambassadors

In 2015, the Center established the Student Ambassador Program, which provides young people experiential learning opportunities to help them apply their theoretical knowledge of the American political system to civic activities. The program inspires students to exercise citizenship rights, including participation in the democratic process and local community life.

The program has also helped our students gain experience in planning, organizing and promoting

events and interacting with community members, scholars, politicians, activists and academic officials. These skills will benefit them in their future professional and personal lives.

In return, the Ambassadors assisted the Center in planning and producing its events and contributed fresh ideas, especially in regards to our annual themes, "Economic Inequality"(2015-2016) and "Immigration and Integration: Testing the Limits of Liberal Democracy" (2017-2018).

# United not Divided — Economic Inequality and the Opportunity Gap



In 2016, the Center took its show on the road and organized a two-day public forum in Baltimore. The forum, chaired by Dr. Maija Harkonen, CSD Executive Director, and moderated by Professor Helen Daugherty, brought scholars, community leaders, policy makers, students and the general public together to discuss economic inequality and explore ways to mitigate its negative impact on the social, cultural and political fabric of the nation.

At the forum, Maryland Congressman Steny Hoyer noted that widening inequality in wealth, income, and opportunity poses a serious threat to the long-term success of our nation. In 2013, he had joined some of his colleagues to create the Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity.



Hon. Steny Hoyer addressed the forum during the first day. He is member of the Center's Advisory Board.

Our impressive list speakers also included sociologist Dr. Karl L. Alexander from John Hopkins University and Dr. Branko Milanovic, Presidential Professor at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

The forum was made possible with generous donations from the G Thomas and Martha Meyers Yeager Endowment Fund, Historic St Mary's City, JP Morgan Chase, Old Line Bank, St Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), Tom and Helen Daugherty, and anonymous individuals and organizations.

Forum attracted 250 registered attendees.



Student Ambassadors at the reception desk.

# Focus on Baltimore



Student Ambassadors with Dr. Jordan, President of St Mary's College of Maryland (in the middle) and Professor Helen Daugherty, Deputy Chair of the forum (on the left).



The second day of the forum focused on the city of Baltimore and its challenges, including its high crime and poverty rate, racial tensions and inadequate educational system. In the aftermath of the 2015 Baltimore protests, our entire campus was concerned about the future of the city where many of our alumni, students and faculty have their homes. The same concerns preoccupied Congressman John Sarbanes whose district comprises parts of Baltimore. He talked about the importance of affordable education in building a strong middle class and lifting people from poverty.



Other distinguished Baltimoreans who spoke at the forum included Kurt L. Schmoke, President of University of Baltimore and former Mayor of Baltimore, Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Special Advisor to Maryland's Governor and Member of House of Delegates from 2011 to 2015, and Diane Bell McKoy, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Associated Black Charities.

The entire St Mary's campus was involved in making the *United Not Divided* forum successful. Many of the issues raised and discussed at the forum were also explored in sociology, economy and political science courses that addressed economic inequality and its impact on American communities. Some of these lectures were open to the public free of charge. Our Student Ambassadors played an integral part in the forum as attentive hosts, and they prepared extensively for their participation in the panel discussions.



# Justice & Inequality

Many of our students plan to go to law school after they graduate from St Mary's College. Some will take a gap year and work for non-profit organizations or in various government departments and agencies in Washington, D.C. or Annapolis. Most of them will find themselves in professional settings where matters pertaining to law and justice are often discussed.

The Center brings legal professionals to campus to give students an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the many legal issues discussed in board rooms, offices and town hall meetings.

In October 2016, the Center organized a roundtable, "Issues of Criminal Justice: Race- or Poverty-based?" moderated Hon. James Kenney III, Judge of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals (ret.). The panel, that included federal and circuit court judges and a D.C. criminal defense attorney, addressed issues such as mandatory minimum sentencing and racial profiling.



"We cannot survive without sound law enforcement. At the same time, we need law enforcement that is appropriately respectful of individual rights and liberties and is applied in a nondiscriminatory manner," stated the Honorable Peter J. Messitte, U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland in his keynote address at the roundtable.



Above: Major Michael R. Merican, Assistant Sheriff of St Mary's County and Student Ambassador Jake Corfman. Below: Rear Admiral Scott Sanders and Nico Moore.



Hon. Melanie Shaw Geter, Judge of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, Hon. Karen H. Abrams, County Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Paul Kiyonaga, Esq., a leading criminal defense attorney in the District of Columbia.

# Boosting Global Citizenship

The Center keeps its finger on the pulse of domestic and international politics. Since its foundation, it has invited established and aspiring politicians to campus to talk about important national issues. HSMC supports the Center by adding the historical perspective to many of our discussions and programs. We also collaborate with TPP in organizing forums on foreign policy and national security issues.

## Global Issues are Local Issues

The world is an increasingly complex web of interdependencies and our students will be affected by decisions made in foreign countries far more often than their parents were. Conflicts in the Middle East may increase the price of gasoline and melting of the polar ice may increase flooding in Maryland. Our students and their elected leaders will participate in managing world affairs in one way or another. We will do our best to ensure they have the knowledge and conceptual tools to tackle the problems our nation and all mankind face.

The Center supports the College goal to graduate prepared, responsible and thoughtful global citizens. It hosts foreign speakers and promotes global literacy through public forums on issues such as climate change, Arctic defense and U.S.-China relations in the South China Sea.

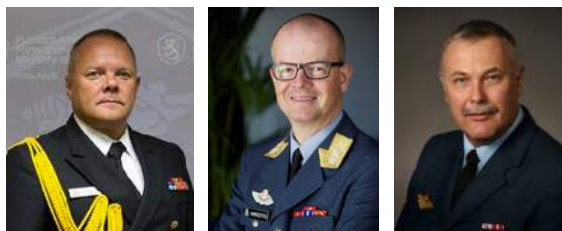
## Discussing Hot Topics



In early 2017, Professor Tatiana Shakleina, from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, presented the Russian conservative view of the superpower relations. A few days later, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, presented his contrasting views of what the United States should do to deter Russian aggression.



The Center collaborated with TPP in organizing Professor Shakleina's talk and also the roundtable on Northern European security issues that took place in October 2015. To hear from the experts on the ground, we invited defense attachés from the embassies of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark to explain how Russia's saber rattling has affected their security policies. The Hon. Ian Brzezinski, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and NATO policy, chaired the event.



The 2016 Patuxent Partnership Group speakers: Captain (N) Timo U. Ståhlhammar, Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché at the Embassy of Finland; Major General Henrik Røboe Dam, Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché to the United States and Canada at the Embassy of Denmark; and Major General Finn K. Hannestad, Defense Attaché to the Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

# Keeping Our Finger on the Pulse



**Immigration.** The world is on the move. Europe is in the midst of the greatest migration upheaval since the end of World War II. In the United States, immigration has become a hotly debated issue. Are our students, the future leaders and voters, prepared to assume their roles as educated decision-makers who base their opinions and decision on facts?

The Center organizes forums to explore the demographic, economic, social, cultural and fiscal impacts of immigration. HSMC helps us understand divisions that existed among early immigrant communities. On the left, Dr. Polly Pallister-Wilkins from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Dr. Ioannis N. Grigoriadis from Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, discuss immigration debates outside the United States at our 2017 forum “Migration Crisis in Europe: Is America a Bystander”?



**New Americans — Who Are They?** The Center is currently implementing its new program, St. Mary’s County Oral History Project, with support from Maryland Humanities. During the project, our students and community members will interview foreign-born immigrants about their integration into St Mary’s County and American society as active contributors to our democracy. This is the first study of its kind in Southern Maryland, and it will provide a baseline for future research. In addition, it will seek to inform the public about local immigrants and their contributions to the community.

## The Maryland Civic Incubator Program

In 2018, the Center will start a new Civic Incubator Program (CIP) focusing initially on Maryland. With this permanent program, the Center aims to build powerful relationships between educational institutions and Maryland civic organizations to help underserved people, including the poor, minorities and recent immigrants, to engage in civic activities and train participants to advocate for their own causes. Leaders of civic organizations along with students and members of local communities will gain knowledge of different levels of government and public administration and learn advocacy skills that enable them to launch effective issue campaigns. The Center is a non-partisan entity and its role is to teach advocacy skills, not to define how they are used.

The CIP expresses important aspects of the Center’s mission. The Center operates to facilitate activities that strengthen democracy and the rule of law; enhance security and individual freedoms; invigorate civil society; encourage free enterprise; and increase economic, environmental, educational and cultural equity. Various College departments and programs and HSMC work with the Center to help it reach one of its most important goals: to advance historical and contemporary knowledge and understanding of ideas and practices associated with democracy, liberty and justice.



# Moving Forward

## How Do We Fund Our Operations?

The initial funding for CSD was provided by a gift from Terry Meyerhoff Rubenstein, a member of the CSD Advisory Board and a SMCM Trustee from 1996 to 2007. In 2004, CSD secured a prestigious “We the People” matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant, along with other smaller donations, helped establish CSD’s endowment and ensured its sustainability. After 2012, the most substantial donation came from Trustee J. Frank Raley, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates (1955–1959) and then a member of the Maryland Senate (1963–1966). J. Frank Raley was also a founding member of the Center and a member of its Advisory Board until his death in 2012.

The CSD budget will continue to depend on four income streams: the annual interest payouts plus grants and donations received from corporations, foundations and individuals. These revenue streams have sustained our operations over the past several years at the same level. But they are not enough to expand our operations and hire new staff, while fulfilling the ambitious plans described above to establish the Center as a recognized leader in the democracy studies field and the renowned provider of civic education.

## Our Community — Our Bedrock

When St Mary’s College of Maryland and Historic St Mary’s City joined forces to create the Center in 2002, they envisioned an entity that would integrate talents of both organizations and serve the local community and all Marylanders. Over the years, we have organized over 270 free public events. No wonder, our community leaders call us a hidden gem of Maryland.

We continue to build our hub of political education with donations from individuals like you. Our community members are not only guests at our events but they may also mentor our students and challenge them to think big. We always have room for more volunteers!

Should you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the Center, please follow the instructions below.

To Make a Gift Online Visit: <http://www.smcm.edu/democracy/>

To Make a Gift by Phone with your credit card: please call: 240.895.4282

To Make a Gift by Mail: Please write “The Center for the Study of Democracy” on the memo line and mail the check to: SMCM Foundation 18952 E. Fisher Road, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Thank you for helping us build “a more perfect union.”

